

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 FDRE-00 IO-10 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-05 INT-05 DHA-02

EB-07 /072 W

----- 126549

R 221452Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5894

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1497

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL IC

SUBJECT: VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN NORTH ICELAND: KRAFLA AREA

REF: TELECON DEC 20 BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND STATE OPERATIONS CENTER

1. AFTER STRONG EARTH TREMORS A MAJOR VOLCANIC ERUPTION BEGAN ABOUT 1030 DECEMBER 20 IN UNINHABITED AREA IN NORTHERN PART OF ICELAND. IT CAUSED NO IMMEDIATE DAMAGE, AND NO CURRENT DANGER TO LIFE OR PROPERTY IS ANTICIPATED. LAVA IS FLOWING TOWARD NORTH-NORTH-WEST, TAKING IT AWAY FROM BOTH NEAREST SETTLEMENT, REYKJAHLDID SEVEN MILES FROM ERUPTION, AND GEOTHERMAL POWER PROJECT AT KRAFLA, TWO MILES DISTANT. REGION HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN DECLARED DANGER ZONE BY CIVIL DEFENSE AUTHORITIES, WHO ARE CLOSELY MONITORING SITUATION.

2. ERUPTION SPRANG FROM 1500-YARD-LONG CRACK IN LEIRHNJUKUR MOUNTAIN, LOCATED MIDWAY BETWEEN TWO OF ICELAND'S MAJOR NATURAL  
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ATTRACTIONS, LAKE MYVATN AND DETTIFOSS. MOUNTAIN IS ABOUT 25 MILES

INLAND FROM NEAREST POPULATION CENTER, COASTAL TOWN OF HUSAVIK (POP. 2200). MODEST EARTH TREMORS OCCURRED OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, SIGNALLING POSSIBILITY OF AN ERUPTION. GEOLOGISTS HAD BEEN PREDICTING VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IN AREA SINCE SEPTEMBER. LAST KNOWN ERUPTION OF MOUNTAIN BEGAN IN 1724 AND LASTED UNTIL 1729.

3. SINCE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, GOI HAS NOT REQUESTED OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE AND, HENCE, NONE WAS OFFERED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 DEC 1975  
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**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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